GURU SAKSHAT PARABRAHMA



H. H. SHRIMAD SUDHINDRA THIRTHA SWAMIJI

TWELVE COMMANDMENTS

of

H.H.SHRIMAD SUDHINDRA THIRTHA SWAMIJI

1. Remember ye men as soon as you get up in the morning, chant His name, and ye ladies, first pray for your mangalya.

2. For the upliftment of the soul, perform Sandhya Vandan and other religious rituals.

3. Remember everyday your Ishtadeva, Kuladeva and Dharma-guru and offer your respects and salutations to them.

4. Be merciful to all.

5. Don't annoy anyone.

6. Donate your mite and help others.

7. Keep your parents and elders happy and don't offend their feelings.

8. Honor those who are superior to you in knowledge, age, position and virtues. Never insult anybody.

9. Don't steal anything; don't crave too much for enjoyments.

10. Listen to the devotional stories of God and his devotees and commandments of our Dharma.

11. Speak what you think; and act according to your words.

12. At night surrender yourself to God, beg for his pardon for all the mistakes that may have committed during the day and then go to bed.

COURTESY : SHREE VYASOPASANA SEWA VRINDA, MUMBAI.

[illegible]

GURU
SAKSHAT
PARABRAHMA

By

[illegible]

[illegible]

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II SHREE HARI GURUBHYO NAMAHA II

GURU SAKSHAT PARABRAHMA



by

M. S. KAMATH

Published by

GSB SABHA BARODA

On the happy occasion of

inauguration of

GSB SABHA BARODA COMMUNITY HALL

"SHEEE SADGURUDHAM"

by

H.H.SHRIMAD SUDHINDRA THIRTHA SWAMIJI

OF SHREE KASHI MATH SAMSTHAN

GURU SAKSHAT PARABRAHMA

By : M.S. KAMATH

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inauguration of
GSB SABHA BARODA COMMUNITY HALL,
"SHREE SADGURUDHAM"
And installation of
"SHREE DWARAKADHEESH" idol
By H. H. SHRIMAD SUDHINDRA THIRTHA SWAMIJI
OF SHREE KASHI MATH SAMSTHAN.

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॥ ज्ञानाभय प्रदाता भगवान श्री वेदव्यास की जय ॥



Dedicated to

H. H. Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji

Shree Kashi Math Samsthan

on 18.5.2001

at Baroda

(installation of Shree Dwarakadheesh idol

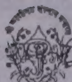
And

inauguration of GSB Community Hall,

Shree Sadgurudham).

by





H. H. SHRIMAD SUDHINDRA THIRTHA SWAMI
SHREE KASHI MATH SAMSTHAN
VARANASI

Camp Sri Vyasashram
Haridwar

Ref: To

Date 3.4.2001.

Dear Desciple Sri M. S. Kamath,
Mathura Nagari Baroda - 20.

Loving Blessings to in the name of Sri Narayana.
Your patram of 21.3.2001 is received and the contents gone through.

Our Blessings:
whatever is written with love, devotion and implicit faith and with only desire to possess the blessings of Sri Hari Guru, will be dear to Sri Narayana - All Merciful.

So we happily give our permission to the Book-let you are going to release and bless for the grand success of the programme. Sri prasadakshatha is enclosed.

Once more with hearty blessings to all of you,

Sreemsom.
[signature]

AN APPEAL

Dear Samaj Bandhavas,

We offer our love, affection, respects and Pranams to our reverend GURUDEV, Parama Poojya His Holiness Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji and also offer this small booklet "GURU - SAKSHAT PARABRAHMA" to HIS LOTUS FEET.

During the last visit of His Holiness Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji of Shri Kashi Math Sansthan to Baroda on the 19th October 2000, I could get the book "PRANAMANA" written by Smt & Shri K C Pai with Foreword from Shri Bhadragiri Achutdasji. Incidentally, I am related to both Pai family and Shri Achutdasji. I read this book with great interest and it inspired me to write my experience. with the "GURUDEV", His Holiness Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji during His last six visits to Baroda since March 1983.

Incidentally, we had a big disastrous earthquake in Gujarat in this year. Our Saraswat Community did not have much loss as compared to loss of life and property in whole of Gujarat except one family of GSB in Ahmedabad and one Saraswat family in Gandhidham were affected. In our opinion this is only because of our prayers to our old Guru Parampara and our Gayatri Japa that we do daily which we continued from ancient days. In fact, on the 26th January, 2001, we, the members of GSB Sabha Baroda, Surat and Ahmedabad were all to-gether in Ahmedabad in one place to celebrate our G-3 summit as suggested by our Gurudev Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji. By Swamiji's Grace we were all safe.

We are happy to inform all our Samaj Bandhavas that His Holiness have kindly consented to visit Baroda on the 17th May, 2001 and inaugurate our GSB Sabha Baroda Community Hall, known as "SHRI SADGURUDHAM" on 18th May 2001 at 10.05 a.m.

To commemorate this great event of inauguration of our own Saraswat Community/Prayer Hall which is the First in whole of Gujarat, we decided to release this small book-let "GURU - SAKSHAT PARABRAHMA" a recollection of our many experiences which we consider as wonders taken place by the kind blessings of HIS HOLINESS, on this auspicious day of 18th May, 2001.

Our sacred scriptures say that the Guru Seva done by disciple has a very great value and "Gurugana" is "Guru Seva". This small book-let is one such "GURUGANA" which we publish as a token of our Bhakti and respect towards our "GURUDEV".

With "Sashtang Namaskara" and "Bhakti Poorvaka Pranams" to the Lotus feet of His Holiness, I seek blessings from HIS HOLINESS for our Samaj.

GURU CHARANA SEVAK,
MULKI SRINIVASA KAMATH, BARODA.

MY GRATITUDE

1. I express my sincere gratitude to His Holiness Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji for giving me the consent at my humble request and releasing this book-let "Guru Sakshat Prarabrahma".

2. I am very much indebted to GSB Sabha Baroda for giving me an opportunity to serve His Holiness and to publish this book-let.

3. I am grateful to our most honoured and noble person of our Samaj, Keerthanagresara Shri Bhadragiri Achutdasmam for writing the Foreword to this book, in spite of his busy schedule and at very short notice.

4. I thank Shri Hemprakash Shenoy, Mumbai who is the first person to prompt me to write my experiences with Poojya Swamiji.

5. I also thank Dr M. S. Padubidri, Shri K. R. Kumble, Smt. Leela V. Prabhu & Smt.Saraswati B. Pai for correcting the draft and Dr K. Baba Pai for suggesting the title "Guru Sakshat Parabrahma" for this book-let.

6. I have to make a special mention of the contribution of Shri P Rathnakar Prabhu (Retd.General Manager of IPCL Baroda) who took up the work of re-writing the sentences, re-shaping the articles and editing. I am very much thankful to him.

7. At this juncture, I remember the help rendered by Smt. Lalita Laxman Baliga who gave me the Book "Pranamana" for reading which inspired me to write this book-let and I also remember Smt. & Shri K. C. Pai the authors of book "Pranamana".

8. My sincere thanks to Shri Mohan M. Kamat of M/s National Printers, Baroda who printed this book within a short time of less than one month.

9. Many Samaj Bandhawas supported me in bringing out this book-let. I express my gratitude to all of them.

10. At last but not the least I thank Sri T. K. Radhakrishnan who typed the draft of the book-let several times till it got the final shape.

11. Lastly, I thank those who have encouraged me to publish this book-let by financing by way of contributions and advertisements, particularly Shri Vyasopasana Sewa Vrinda, Mumbai.

M. S. KAMATH
BARODA.

FOREWORD

When we implicitly follow the Shvetasvatara Upanishad dictum

"यस्य देवे पराभक्तिः यथा देवे तथा गुरौ"

and repose as much devotion in the Guru, as we do in God, all knowledge in the sacred scriptures flows to us, by itself.

As per another dictum of Sumadhava Vijaya viz. "मुकुन्द भक्तैः गुरु भक्ति जायै" devotion to Guru is a necessary pre-requisite for one to develop devotion to God. By devotion is meant, humble submission to the will of God/Guru, born of gratitude, and love born of a realization of their greatness. To the striver on the spiritual path or a Sadhaka. the Guru is a proxy image of Shri Hari and therefore, worship-worthy. As one worships Shri Hari in an image, in a like manner therefore, one should worship the Guru, seeing the Parabrahman in him. That is the meaning of the saying "गुरु साक्षात् परब्रह्म". If the Guru is a Sannyasi and a supreme vaishnava, such a Guru is all the more worship-worthy.

"तीर्थि कुर्वन्ति तीर्थानि" - The Guru imparts sanctity to the flowing rivers and makes them sacred, just by his contacting the waters by dipping, bathing etc. Just by looking at the Guru, one earns as much merit as one would by pilgrimages to Holy places and temples of the Lord. He is the very medium through whom God Himself speaks. If God is angered (by our action), Guru will save us. If the Guru is angered, none can save us.

His Holiness Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji of Shri Kashi Math Samsthan is the rarest of the rare among such Sadgurus. The Gouda Saraswat Samaj and in particular the disciples of Shri Kashi Math Samsthan all over the country, are indeed fortunate in having such a legendary Paramahamsa Sanyasi as the Head of the Kashi Math Samsthan; He has so graciously and out of divine kindness not only guided the destiny of the desciples, helping them immensely in their personal Sadhana, but also been instrumental in building many wonderful and new institution of everlasting value all over India.

It is in the fitness of things that Sri M S Kamath, a deeply religious and a

dear friend, who has been witness to some of the divine activities and attributes of His Holiness, has found it opportune to document some of these events in the form of a book-let titled "गुरु साक्षात् परब्रह्म". Members of the GSB Community will ever remain grateful to him for this act of his.

May the Samaj Bhavan called "सदगुरु धाम" built by the members of the Community in Baroda through the Grace of His Holiness, be a focal point for all the religious, cultural and spiritual activities of the community and stand out as an ideal worthy of emulation in Gujarat as well as in other parts of the country.

I pray His Holiness Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji and Shri Vyasa Raghupathi who is none other than Shri Moola Narayana, so that this booklet describing the potencies and wonderful activities of His Holiness, brought out by Shri M S Kamath, may evoke awareness of Guru Tattva among all readers and be blessed by the Guru.

BANGALORE

sd/-

15.4.2001. Shri Bhadragiri Achutadasji.

ಮುನ್ನುಡಿ:

"ಯಸ್ಯ ದೇವೇ ಪರಾಭಕ್ತಿಃ ಯಥಾದೇವೇ ತಥಾ ಗುರೌ।" ಎಂಬ ಶ್ವೇತಾಶ್ವತರ ಉಪನಿಷತ್ತಿನ ವಾಕ್ಯದಂತೆ ನಾವು ದೇವರಲ್ಲಿ ಇಡುವಷ್ಟೇ ಭಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಗುರುವಿನಲ್ಲೂ ಇಟ್ಟಾಗ ಸಕಲಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನವೂ ತಾನಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಾಪ್ತಿಯಾಗುವುದು.

"ಮುಕುಂದ ಭಕ್ತ್ಯೈ: ಗುರು ಭಕ್ತಿಜಾಯೈ" ಎಂಬ ಸುಮಧ್ವ ವಿಜಯದ ನುಡಿಯಂತೆ ದೇವರಲ್ಲಿ ಭಕ್ತಿ ಉಂಟಾಗ ಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಮೊದಲು ಗುರುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಕ್ತಿ ಇರಬೇಕು. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಭಕ್ತಿ ಎಂದರೆ ಕೃತಜ್ಞತಾ ಪೂರ್ವಕವಾದ ವಿಧೇಯತೆ. ಗೌರವಾದರ ಪೂರ್ವಕವಾದ ಸ್ನೇಹ. ಅಂದರೆ ಪ್ರೀತಿ.

ಗುರುಗಳು ಶ್ರೀಹರಿಯ ಪ್ರತಿಮಾ ಸ್ಥಾನಿಯರು. ಪೂಜ್ಯರು. ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ದೇವರನ್ನು ಆರಾಧಿಸುವಂತೆ ಗುರುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಬ್ರಹ್ಮನನ್ನು ನೋಡಬೇಕು.

ಅದೇ "ಗುರು ಸಾಕ್ಷಾತ್ ಪರಬ್ರಹ್ಮ" ಎಂಬುದರ ಅರ್ಥ. ಆ ಗುರುಗಳು ಸನ್ಯಾಸಿಗಳೂ ಪರಮ ವೈಷ್ಣವರೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಇನ್ನೂ ಪೂಜ್ಯರು.

"ತೀರ್ಥೀ ಕುರುವಂತಿ ತೀರ್ಥಾನಿ" ಗುರುಗಳು ನೀರಿಗೆ ತೀರ್ಥತ್ವ ಕೊಡುವವರು. ಅವರ ದರ್ಶನವೇ ಸಕಲ ಪುಣ್ಯ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳ ದರ್ಶನ. ಅವರ ಮೂಲಕ ಪರಮಾತ್ಮನೇ ನುಡಿಯುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಹರಿ ಮುನಿದರೆ ಗುರು ಕಾಯುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಗುರು ಮುನಿದರೆ ಹರಿ ಎಂದೂ ಅನುಗ್ರಹ ಮಾಡಲಾರ.

ಅಂತಹ ಕಾಯುವ ಸದ್ಗುರುಗಳೇ ಶ್ರೀ ಕಾಶೀಮಠಾಧೀಶ ಶ್ರೀ ಮತ್ಸುಧೀಂದ್ರ ತೀರ್ಥ ಶ್ರೀಪಾದಂಗಳವರು. ಯುಗ ಪುರುಷರೂ, ಸನ್ಯಾಸ ರತ್ನಾಕರರೂ ಆದ ಮಹಿಮಾ ಸಂಪನ್ನರೂ, ಕರುಣಾಮೂರ್ತಿಗಳೂ, ಗೌಡ ಸಾರಸ್ವತ ಸಮಾಜದ ಸ್ವರೂಪೋದ್ಧಾರಕರೂ ಆದ ಸದ್ಗುರು ಶ್ರೀ ಸುಧೀಂದ್ರ ತೀರ್ಥರ ಸಾನಿಧ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅನೇಕಾನೇಕ ದಿವ್ಯ ಮಹಿಮೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ಅನುಭವಿಸಿದ ತಮ್ಮ ದಿವ್ಯಾನುಭೂತಿಯನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ಆತ್ಮೀಯರೂ ಧರ್ಮಪರಾಯಣರೂ ಆದ ಶ್ರೀ. ಎಂ. ಎಸ್. ಕಾಮತರು ತಮ್ಮ ಅನುಭವವನ್ನು ಗ್ರಂಥರೂಪವಾಗಿ ರಚಿಸಿ ಗುರುಭಕ್ತರಿಗೆ ಮಹೋಪಕಾರ ಮಾಡಿರುವರು.

ಸರ್ವಜ್ಞರಾದ ಗುರುಗಳ ಸಾನಿಧ್ಯ, ಅವರ ತಾತ್ವಿಕ ಸಾತ್ವಿಕ ಕೃಪಾದೃಷ್ಟಿ ನಿಷ್ಕಳಂಕ ಪ್ರೇಮ ತಮ್ಮ ತಪಶ್ಶಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಮಾಜದ ಉನ್ನತಿಗಾಗಿ ಧಾರೆಯೆರೆದ ಮಹಾನ್ ತಪಸ್ವಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮಗ್ರ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ಸ್ವರೂಪೋದ್ಧಾರಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀ ಕಾಶೀಮಠಾಧೀಶರನ್ನು ಗುರುಗಳಾಗಿ ಪಡೆದ ಗೌಡ ಸಾರಸ್ವತ ಸಮಾಜ ಹಾಗೂ ಭಾರತದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸಜ್ಜನರು ಧನ್ಯರು.

ಬಡೋದೆಯ (ಬರೋದಾ) ಸಮಾಜ ಬಾಂಧವರು ಗುರುಕೃಪೆಯಿಂದ ರಚಿಸಿರುವ "ಸದ್ಗುರುಧಾಮ" ಎಂಬ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭವನವು ಸಮಾಜದ ಸಕಲ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಆಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರವಾಗಿ ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕೆ, ಗುಜರಾತ್ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ, ಸಮಗ್ರ ಭಾರತ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಆದರ್ಶವಾಗಲಿ.

ಶ್ರೀಮಾನ್ ಎಂ. ಎಸ್. ಕಾಮತರ ಈ ಗುರುಮಹಿಮಾ ವರ್ಣನೆಯ ಗ್ರಂಥವು ಸಕಲರಿಗೂ ಗುರುತತ್ವದ ಅರಿವನ್ನು ಉಂಟುಮಾಡಲೆಂದು ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರುಗಳನ್ನೂ ಶ್ರೀ ಮೂಲನಾರಾಯಣನಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ವ್ಯಾಸ ರಘುಪತಿ ದೇವರನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಸಂತ ಭದ್ರಗಿರಿ ಅಚ್ಯುತದಾಸ್.

1188, "ವಿಶ್ವಜ್ಯೋತಿ", 5ನೇ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, 18ನೇ ಬಿ. ಮೈನ್, ರಾಜಾಜಿ ನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-10.

"GURU - SAKSHAT PARABRAHMA"

श्री व्यासरघुपते नमः ।

श्रीमद् सुकृतींद्रतीर्थ गुरुभ्यो नमः ।

मांगल्यैक निधानंत्वं श्रीलक्ष्मी वेंकटेश्वर ।

अस्मत् गुरु सुधींद्राणां आयुष्यं देहि श्रीपते ।।

कल्याण गुण सम्पूर्ण श्रीपते वेंकटेश्वर ।

सुधींद्रयतिवर्याणां आरोग्यं देहि माधव ।।

।। श्रीमद् सुधींद्रतीर्थ स्वामि महाराज की जय ।।

– हेमप्रकाश नरसिंह शेणी
श्री व्यासोपासना सेवा वृंद
मुंबई

1. CHANGE OF HEART BY REMOTE

On one Saturday, at around 9.30 p.m when I was just entering my house after visiting Maruti Temple, I got a phone call from Sri Mallmam (also known as Babuji) from Haridwar Sri Vyasashram that Rajdhani Express has left Bombay very late due to which departure of Rajdhani from New Delhi to Mumbai also would be delayed. His Holiness Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji had asked us whether we can make immediate arrangement in Baroda for Swamiji's visit to have "Trikala Pooja" to Lord Shri Vyasa Raghupati. Babuji told me that Swamiji desired that I should discuss this with our Samaj members and reply at 11.00 p.m. I contacted Sri V. V. Padiyarmam, Founder President of our Sabha; Sri G. K. Prabhu, Past President; Sri H. V. Prabhu, President; Dr K. B. Pai, Secretary and some of our members. Every body agreed that we will make all the arrangements even though it was just 36 hours' notice as we are lucky to have "Darshan" of His Holiness and Shree Vyasa Raghupati and we do not want to miss such a great occasion. We confirmed the same to Babuji. One can understand our predicament. As many disciples are also accompanying Swamiji, we had to arrange for a Community Hall with all the facilities within a short notice.

We worked out a programme till late night. At 12.00 O' clock mid-night, I called one of my officers, Mr V. K. Patel whose brother, Mr Kamlesh Patel was the Secretary of Arunoday Housing Society and requested him to spare their Community Hall for a day for Swamiji's visit. By His Grace, he immediately agreed that it would be his responsibility and not to worry. Next day myself and Sri G K Prabhu went to market, purchased all the requirements and also made travel arrangement for disciples to go to Bombay from Baroda. All preparations were made in the Hall on that day duly informing on phone to every Sabha member through a chain arrangement i.e. everybody informing somebody else so that nobody is left out. In the late evening, we called a meeting of all volunteers in Hotel Satkar in their Conference Hall which belongs to Sri G. K. Prabhu and his relatives. Suddenly to our utter dismay, someone came rushing and informed that the committee members of Arunoday Society to whom the Community Hall belongs are fighting each other since Mr Patel has not collected the advance and not consulted them before agreeing to give the hall. Also, it was told that Hall Rent is Rs.7000/- per day and Mr Patel was fighting for a lower rent since it was a "Dharmik" function and not a marriage function. In fact, there were 2 groups i.e. old committee and new committee and they had their own personal bickerings. On hearing Rs.7000/- per day rent, many started staring at me as it was too high for us at that time. However, I took the decision since Swamiji was to come the next day morning and we had only 10 hours left and it would

be very difficult to get another decent hall. I rushed to the Hall and gave Rs.5000/- to Mr Patel duly informing that I will pay the balance on the next day as he had made arrangement for the Hall, at least. Mr Patel told me not to worry about the rent as he will be able to convince others.

Another interesting thing happened at that time. Swamiji wanted to stay in Baroda for one more day as His Holiness was not well, having slight knee pains. Here, in Arunoday Society the rule is that they won't allow anybody to stay at night. They made this rule after they had some bad experience with one marriage party in which some had alcoholic drinks and behaved indecently with others. Now, Mr Patel has to convince his other members that these people are disciples of Swamiji who carry their Idols of their deities with them. He told us that he will see that nobody shall object the stay of Swamiji. My question is why Mr Patel has to fight with his own community people, for the cause of another community. Is it not Swamiji's super natural power made him to help us for Swamiji's visit?

During the "Pooja", it was surprising that all the committee members, both old and new who were earlier fighting, came for "Darshan" of our Sri Vyas Raghupati and saw the Aarati. They took Prasadam and informed us that it is the first time that their whole society atmosphere became Pure on account of Swamiji's visit and due to sound of Bhajans, Shankha, Bells, Nagari etc., which brought them here to see the "Aarati". Later, we took them in the evening to Swamiji for "Phala-mantrakshata" and they were blessed by His Holiness.

Do you know the result? Next day after the departure of His Holiness, when we went to settle the account, they had reduced the rent to only Rs.251/- for 2 days. Where is Rs.7000/- per day and where is Rs.251/- for 2 days?. How the people who do not even belonging to our Community, changed their hard attitude with a Darshan of our Swamiji? The story does not end here.

The day on which Swamiji was to start from Delhi, the President of GSB Sabha Delhi told me that he will phone me after the Rajdhani Express train departure. Normally it was to leave at 4.00 p.m. but, due to problems it was expected to leave at 9.00 or 10.00 p.m. He also told me that a lot of items have been booked in the Luggage Van and I have to make arrangement for taking out immediately since Rajdhani stops only for 5 minutes at Baroda Station. In fact, he told me to talk to the Station Master to extend the halt for 15-20 minutes at Baroda Station.

A truck was arranged to carry all items from Luggage Van including the

people for shifting from luggage van and to empty it out quickly. Station Master did not agree to stop for more than scheduled time since it needed permission of Western Railway Board. Normally, in the morning, traffic is a great problem at Baroda Railway Station I talked to one of my friends who is from Sangha Parivar He talked to traffic police and told me that he will see that train will start only after our job is completed. Since all these problems were disturbing my mind, I could not get good sleep at night. Added to that the expected phone call from Delhi regarding the departure did not come. At 3.00 a.m I called Mr Nayakmam at Delhi who replied that the train had left at 1.00 p.m and may reach Baroda at 11.00 a.m or so. He did not call me as he did not want to trouble me at late night and wanted to inform me at 6.00 a.m. We did not have much man-power of our own here and I was worried. I wanted to talk to Babuji immediately, but decided to wait till early morning. At 5 minutes to 6.00 a.m or so, I got the call from Babuji that Swamiji had told him while leaving Haridwar to convey me not to worry for anything and we shall adjust. This sentence of Babuji relieved much of my tension. I took bath, had prayers and rushed to station even though there was enough time as the train was late. I saw my friend from Sangh Parivar who told that traffic police constable on duty was his friend and introduced him to me. All GSB Sabha members' vehicles were allowed to be parked just at the main entrance of the Station. At 11.30 a.m the train arrived on the platform. We saw Swamiji getting down smilingly. All started loudly chanting "Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamijiki Jai". In the station all the people were looking at Swamiji with folded hands. Station Master, TTE, Guards, everyone had darshan and touched the Lotus feet of His Holiness. The train stopped for 10-15 minutes and our people could unload all the items from the luggage van as well as Swamiji's compartment. Look at the helping hand rendered by my friend from Sangh Parivar who is not from our Community. Things just happened.

2. LOST AND FOUND

A grand welcome awaited His Holiness on the platform by Community Members. We reached the Hall along with Swamiji. Swamiji took bath and sat for Pooja. Just before starting the Pooja, we came to know that one of the Silver items, normally being used during Pooja was missing. This was a very old item of Math. We searched all the vehicles including the truck which was used for bringing belongings from luggage van of Rajdhani Express. We called the contractor and all people who were with us for emptying the Swamiji's compartment and luggage van and questioned them. But, the silver pooja item could not be located. We became upset as we felt that our age old math's important item was lost in Baroda. While it struck to someone's mind that we should have

searched Swamiji's compartment properly before the train left the platform, we telephoned Sri Madhavmam at Sri Walkeshwar Mutt to send somebody to Bombay Central giving the coach number and check the compartment. Later, we were all happy to know from Madhavmam that the person went to Bombay Central immediately could get the missing silver pooja item. We felt relieved. Do you think that we can get back anything once lost; that too in the train? Also, till it reaches Bombay Central? How many people enter the coach and search for empty water bottles (particularly Bombay)? Yes, it is the property of Lord Sri Vyasa Raghupati and He got it back.

3. A GREAT SURPRISE

On the next day, His Holiness was to leave by Train scheduled at 10.00 a.m. Swamiji was not well and even at 9.30 a.m. His Holiness was not ready. We were worried as the train comes to 2nd platform and we have to use the over-bridge along with many Pooja items and belongings of Math which they carry during the tour. At 9.45 a.m. or so Swamiji just came out of His room. Then, there was a Pada Pooja of the Committee. All tried to get the Phal-mantrakshata. Swamiji gave "Prasadam" to everybody and the people were very happy. It was almost 10.00 a.m. which was the schedule departure time for the train. We became very nervous but did not tell Swamiji as His Holiness was not well and had knee pain. It was only 5 minutes drive to station. We prayed God that His Holiness should not miss the train. To our surprise when we just reached the main entrance of the station, we heard the announcement that the train is late by an hour. We immediately thought that Swamiji might have known this earlier. We got a lot of time to change the platform and to shift all belongings. In this hurry also, somebody brought 2 folding chairs to platform. Do not know, who got this idea?. Swamiji sat in the chair very relaxed and told us smilingly that everything went well. We prayed Swamiji that all arrangements were done in a hurry and to excuse us for any short comings or if we had committed any mistake. Swamiji smilingly replied that nothing has gone wrong and they were very happy that Baroda programme went very well by the grace of Shree Vyasa Ragupati. All local people in the station got the Darshan of His Holiness. Each and every member of Samaj who came to station had a very nice time with Swamiji. Since then, we went on recollecting how all these miracles happened. Yes, His Holiness is really great. He is not only Guru; but also He is Sakshat Para Brahma.

4. ADVICE AS PER BHAGAVAT GEETA

In 1989 I had been to Vasai to receive Swamiji for Baroda visit on His

way to Haridwar via Udaipur. This was second time I was with Swamiji in His car. (First time I had been to Ahmedabad in 1983 to receive Swamiji). I had one personal problem which was bubbling in my mind whether to ask Swamiji or not. Later, I took some courage and politely requested Swamiji with folded hands to excuse me first and told that I have one personal problem and I need guidance from His Holiness.

I was working as Technical Manager for almost 2 decades in the same company. In fact, I was the Unit Head for Baroda Unit at that time. Suddenly I came to know that Management is recruiting some Administrative Manager from their own circle with almost double the salary of mine duly informing that he won't interfere in my work. I felt that I was being neglected by the Management as they are bringing someone else from outside instead promoting me in-spite of my hard-work and continuous service for 2 decades; that too working as Unit in-charge for 9 years even though designation was not Works Manager. I was very disturbed and upset.

I asked Swamiji that this problem is bothering me constantly and I am feeling uneasy. Swamiji replied with a smile that I should not worry for such things as "result" (Karma Phala) is not in our hand. We have to work (Karma) continuously with full zeal and interest and help in achieving the management's objective and goal. The result will follow. One has to think of his duty only and not the result. His Holiness continued; it is quite natural that Shethias (Management) will always try to bring their own people up and they have authority. If they bring good person, it is good for you and management. If they bring bad person, they will realize soon. Since they are the owners, they will take their own decisions and if we are the owners, we will also do the same thing. A day will come that director's son/daughter may take charge and question you about the work. We can not say `No' just because they do not have experience. There is always Employer and Employee relationship and good work won't go waste even though there are some temporary set-backs. After all we have left our home town for our livelihood. What we need is appreciation for our work and knowledge of work; not the designations. The knowledge/skill give real happiness and not the money/designation which are temporary. Swamijis above Guruvani removed fear from my mind and prompted me to be more realistic in life.

Immediately, I started working with more and more zeal without expectations. I got more strength to do the job better as I stopped worrying. Later, not only they did not bring any one above me, instead they promoted me as Works Manager. Thereafter I continued to get elevated as Dy G.M. and G.M. (Works). This incident is really a turning point in my life. If

I would have not asked Swamiji, probably I would have spoiled my health by worrying. Since that day, I found our "Gurudev" always approachable and His Blessings always work wonders.

5. A TURNING POINT TO SUCCESS

I came to Baroda in 1979 as a Production Superintendent in my company. First time I had a close "Darshan" of Swamiji was in 1983. Normally one or two persons have to go to receive Swamiji to the place from where His Holiness starts the visit. As there were only 42 families or so at that time and not many of them were having vehicles, people used to stand at the city limit to receive Swamiji. Sri N.R. Bhat asked me whether I can go with the car to Ahmedabad to receive Swamiji on behalf of Baroda Saraswats. But, during those days I had no official vehicle and that too I was in a small position. Also, I had not visited Ahmedabad before.

Just one day prior to Swamiji's visit, I got a phone call at my house from my Head Office in Bombay to visit Ahmedabad to attend one Plastic Seminar and Exhibition at Tagore Hall. I thought this may be the wish of "Gurudev". I attended both seminar and exhibition in the morning and directly went to Swamiji's camp without having food at seminar. I introduced myself to Shri S. V. Pai in the Hall. He accompanied me to Swamiji and introduced me and informed that I have come from Baroda to accompany Swamiji. I got the "Prasadam" and blessings from Swamiji with a divine smile. I prayed Swamiji that I have come on behalf of our Samaj Bandhavas at Baroda to receive His Holiness. This is the first time in my life I talked to His Holiness. No doubt, I had met Him in my child-hood for Mudradharan etc. but, normally my father used to collect Prasadam and he used to apply on our fore-head. We used to see Swamiji from a long distance with folded hands and hear the Pravachans. When Swamiji smiled at me from a very close distance duly agreeing that we shall start within an hour and gave me Prasad, tears came from my eyes. I did not know why? I was exhausted. This is the turning point in my life (i.e) a complete change. I became the Founder Secretary of the Sabha within a few days. I got the promotion as Production Manager, Technical Manager, Works Manager, Dy General Manager and later as General Manager in my company.

6. AN EMPTY BUILDING (BHOOTH BANGLA) CHANGED TO A BRANCH OF A BANK

In 1983 when His Holiness visited Baroda from Ahmedabad on His way to Mumbai, camped at a Bank Quarters. In fact, this building was kept closed for years and nobody was staying in this building. It was neither a

bank, nor quarters and the property was belonging to a nationalised Bank. It seems bank management wanted to convert it as a Training Centre or so. At that time it was known as "Bhooth Bangla" as some people used to call since it was the only building remained closed for years in a commercially active and thickly populated area like R. C. Dutt Road, a posh locality just in-front of a luxurious star hotel. We got the permission from bank management to have Swamiji's camp for 3 days in this vacant building. It was opened and cleaned thoroughly. Water tank was cleaned and sterilised. Electric bulbs were put. Got the supply restored (but arranged water in municipal tankers) and then walls were white washed through a contractor who was really an illiterate. But, later he did not take any expenses towards the white-wash job given to him telling it is God's work and completed the white-wash for the whole building, both inside and outside. Look at the generosity of a poor, illiterate person. Swamiji stayed here for 3 days. Later, we had GSB Sabha's first Annual Day programme here and after a few years this building was converted into bank quarters and 4 families started staying. It is just 2 years ago, it has been converted into a commercial branch of the bank. You may be surprised. It is the same building where the birth of GSB Sabha Baroda had taken place, around 18 years ago.

7. BIRTH OF GSB SABHA BARODA

In 1983 during Swamiji's visit, 3 days programme went on very well from early morning till late night. Everybody felt that we should meet at least once in a year like this. I also felt that we should have our Sabha so that we can meet regularly and not only when Swamiji visits. Many ladies felt that they talk "Konkani" with husband and children only and they do not find any body to speak in our language as they do not see our people after Swamiji's visit. I became Hon.Secretary (self appointed, of course without knowing what Secretary has to do), Sri V. V. Padiyar as President, Sri P. R. Prabhu as Vice President and Sri D. C. Pai as Hon.Treasurer. Those who were present at the end of last day of Swamiji's visit were all committee members. This is an ad-hoc committee. We asked Sri N. R. Bhat to inform the Swamiji about our wish to start the Sabha and got the BLESSINGS of His Holiness. Thus, the GSB Sabha Baroda was born. It was the 3rd visit of His Holiness which made us to have the GSB Sabha Baroda.

8. A RARE SKILL BECAME AN AMPLE RESOURCE

In 1983, during the Pooja, His Holiness started doing "Alankar". At that time, one Bhatmam who came along with Swamiji was the only one singing Bhajans. He asked us to sing after completing his Bhajan. There

was not a single person who could sing Bhajan. We started only Ram-nam. In fact, we used to sing in our younger age (i.e) school going time in our native place but forgot during college days and then whe , we shifted from place to place for jobs. This particular situation was very embarrassing even though Bhajan is our culture. When I went to native place next, collected a few Bhajan books from Bantwal and some from Hampankatta Bus-stand. Copied some Bhajans with own hand writing and zeroxed. But, the problem is many people do not know Kannada here. At that time, we got Sri N. S. Rao, DGM, Punjab National Bank who was just transferred from Delhi. He became our first Guru for Bhajans in Baroda. After 3 years, he got a transfer. We got one Smt. Katre Mayee who taught us Bhajans including Konkani bhajans composed by her particularly to many lady members. We started singing Bhajans on auspicious days like Guru Poornima, Chudi Pooja, Ganesh Chaturti, Janmastami, Dussera, Ashad Ekadashi, Datta Jayanti, Shivaratri, Ratha Saptami, Rama Navami etc., at different houses of members. Today, some of us are not getting chance to sing since there are many who sing very well. During Swamiji's Chaturmas at Dwaraka, we took chance to sing Bhajans during the Pooja. Swamiji was so happy and asked Sri Ballu (Sri H. Balakrishna Prabhu) to arrange to give few "Vyasopasana" Bhajana books to Baroda people. Sri Ballu conveyed the same to Sri Hemprakash Shenoy, Mumbai. Mr Hemprakash caught me at Walkeshwar in October 2000 when I visited and handed over to me 40 Vyasopasana books. Can you believe? All 40 books were sold in a small place like Baroda (at a token price of Rs.25/- only per book, the collection of which was put in building fund). So much, is the interest in Bhajans among all our Saraswats in Baroda now. Really, Bhajan, a rare skill in 1983 became Ample resource now. Reason? Swamiji's frequent visit and existence of our Sabha with the blessings of His Holiness.

9. G-3 SUMMIT

In 1996 during Kartika masa (Tulasi Pooja Day) when I visited Haridwar with my family, I met Swamiji. His Holiness was in a free-mood and suggested that we, all Saraswats from Gujarat State i.e Baroda, Ahmedabad, Surat etc., should meet once in a year. We should go to Ahmedabad and they should come to Baroda and similarly to Surat and vice-versa, so that love and affection among our people living away from their native place will increase and it will be of some help in many ways later. It is just like people from Mangalore coming to Mulki for Pratishta Poornima and Mulki people going to Mangalore for Car Festival etc. His holiness suggested to conduct a Sree Satyanarayana Pooja, some talks and programmes for improving the creative skills for children such as drawing competition etc. I agreed but wondered at night while sleeping

whether cur people in different parts will agree. When I returned to Baroda, I placed this point at our Executive Committee meeting and all agreed unanimously to have such a meet. Immediately, first such meet was held in Baroda as G-3 summit in February 1997 sponsored by GSB Sabha Baroda. G-3 means, All Gujarat GSB Get-together. Also, G-3 stands for GSBs from 3 places viz. Baroda, Ahmedabad and Surat who came together for first time. Today, it has became a mega-event for Saraswats in Gujarat with full of entertainment, felicitations, samoohik pooja, creative ideas, exchange of views in general and brother-hood in particular (i.e) love and affection and knowing more of our people. This suggestion was from His Holiness and it is only because of blessings from His Holiness, year by year the popularity of G-3 summit is on the increase.

10. THE COMMUNITY HALL PROJECT

(THAT COULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN 10 YEARS, JUST HAPPENED IN ONE DAY THAT TOO COMPLETED IN JUST 10 MONTHS).

His Holiness had a camp at Baroda from the 29th February to the 2nd March 2000 on his way to Haridwar. At that time, after the "Mudradharan" Swamiji asked all members present to sit and had a informal chat. Smilingly His Holiness asked us what are our future projects and plans. We told that we would like to have our own Community Hall for prayers and for our social, cultural and charitable activities. His Holiness blessed us informing to go for "Mandir" sort of thing with a hall and not for a temple at this juncture as it is difficult to maintain for a small place like Baroda. Also, asked us to involve the surrounding locals so that they can pray and help in our charitable activities.

The second day when our Hon.Secretary, Sri R. H. Shenoy visited the hall (camp) to hand-over the cow's milk early morning, he suddenly saw Swamiji looking outside at some construction work of a society which was going on. His Holiness asked Sri Shenoy about the construction cost at Baroda.

Just after one and half month, on April 16th 2001, there was a big celebration at Walkeshwar, Mumbai (i.e.) "Amrith Mahotsava" of Swamiji in the evening. I could not go due unavoidable circumstances. It was also a Sunday. I thought of doing something as per Swamiji's wish, on that day, so that we can remember the Swamiji's Amrith Mahotsava. Also, Swamiji used to give me blessings to have all success in our activities of Samaj. I thought by doing Samaj Work (Community Work), we can fulfill the wishes of His Holiness. So Dr. K. Baba Pai and I visited one construction place which was just started and I used to see everyday

during my morning walk. We found that the person in charge of that construction was not that much cooperative. Then, we met another builder, Sri Kamlesh Thacker who was known for his helping nature by some of our Community Members (Mr Ashok Pai, Mr R. G. Kudva & others). We met him on the way and he introduced his younger brother Mr Jignesh Thacker and cousin Mr Mukesh Thacker. These people showed us six different places on that day. We remembered His Holiness and decided to finalize on that day itself. We thought of Punit Park place as we can get within our budget and also, it had an open space of about 20,000 sq.ft nearby as no-man's land, some sort of a common plot and no construction is allowed). At 3.00 p.m we called our Community Members to meet at 4.00 p.m at my house. We all met and decided to go for this place with 3 flats joining to-gether (i.e) 1900 sq.ft to make our community hall. At 6.00 p.m we handed over Rs.500/- as token money, one Swamiji's photo and Swamiji's "Prasadam". All brothers along with their father, Sri Nirmal Thacker took the same with folded hands duly doing "Pranams" to Swamiji's photo. Thus, we booked the Hall just after 45 days from the date of Swamiji's blessings (i.e) on the 1st March 2000.

Don't you think there is some remote power working behind all of us. A job of having a hall which we were sincerely trying since last 10 years, was suddenly accomplished within one day, that too on the day of Amrith Mahotsav of His Holiness at Mumbai, and also within 45 days of Swamiji's visit and blessings. We remembered this has taken place just because of visit of His Holiness in February 2000 and blessings of His Holiness who asked about our project/plans and construction cost at that time.

This story does not end here; you will be surprised to know some more. We arranged Swamiji's "Charana Kamala Sparsh" function in October 2000 when slabs and walls were built. Swamiji was very happy to see the place and blessed all of us including the builders. His Holiness also blessed Sri Rajesh Nadkarni who put a lot of efforts in our Community Hall project day and night.

During this function there was some additional 700 sq.ft open flat just adjacent to our 1900 sq.ft hall which in fact was booked by one Mr Acharya from Kerala who had also booked one shop below this hall (i.e) in ground floor. Swamiji just showed finger including this flat and told that this much area is sufficient and smiled showing His happiness. After a few days we thought let us take Mr Acharaya's flat also duly talking to builder to influence him to take some other place and to leave that flat for us, since it may be useful later. When we visited the builder, before we opened our mouth, he told us whether we are interested in the flat booked by Mr Acharya since he just booked bigger place in his another society instead of this flat. We got it before we asked for it. How? In our opinion, it is the

BLESSINGS of His. Holiness (i.e) showing the finger at this flat since it was just in front of His Holiness when His Holiness seated on that day for "Charana Kamala Sparsh" in the hall.

We were afraid of how to collect funds for 3 flats in April 2000 while booking and after the "Pada Sparsh" of His Holiness it just happened. Now, with the 4th flat, the corridor also came inside the hall and now the area is 2800 sq.ft instead of 1900 sq.ft decided earlier. This is just the result of Pada sparsha of His Holiness in October 2000.

In fact, the construction work started in July 2000 and completing in April 2001 (i.e) just 10 months.

11 GURU'S GRACE IS GOD'S GRACE

In February 2000 we arranged the camp for His Holiness at Amin Party Plot, belonging to one Mr Vinodbhai Amin at Subhanpura, Baroda. The normal rent for this hall which is a two storied building and the open party plot was Rs.17,000 per day but he told us that he won't charge more in view of Dharmik programme. On the last day, he was blessed by Swamiji with "Phalamanthrakshata" before departure. After the Swamiji's visit when we went to him for making the payment, he was not prepared to take anything from us in-spite of providing us hall, utensils, stage arrangement, decorations, chairs, water and electric supply etc., for 2 days. He told us that he got the Guru's grace and it is sufficient. Ultimately, we ourselves paid him Rs.5001/- so as to make good for at least electricity and water supply. After about one year, when we visited him in January 2001, we saw that he had taken another big plot by the side of existing plot and made the arrangement so nicely that now it is one of the biggest and beautiful party plots available in Baroda. He says that it is the God's grace and God's grace comes from Guru's grace.

12. DIVINE POWER AND GODLY TOUCH

On October 19th 2000 His Holiness Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji visited Baroda on the way from Walkeshwar, Mumbai to "Pushkarni", "Ujjain" via Udaipur. On behalf of GSB Sabha Baroda I went to Mumbai to receive Swamiji. We started at 11.30 a.m from Walkeshar Mutt, Mumbai and it took about 2 hours to reach Dahisar, out skirts of Mumbai. There was no problem what-so-ever on the High-way except there was a heavy traffic jam at Bharuch on the way near the Highway Narmada Bridge. The movement was so slow that we had to stop the vehicle every 2/3 feet distance and it was 7.00 p.m. On the left hand side there was a new road and a new bridge which was just constructed adjacent to the existing

bridge. It was protected from all sides with full of security guards not to allow anybody to use this bridge till it is officially inaugurated. When we requested the security people at the south end they showed us one way to enter the new bridge duly removing a few drums kept for no entry. Our friends from Seva Mandal, Mumbai removed the drums and guided all our vehicles. It was about 2 k.m long road including the bridge. We are happy that we could overcome the traffic jam which otherwise would have taken a few more hours and it would have been not only boring but it would have been more tiresome due to long journey. But, we were suddenly stopped by Security at the other side (north side) and asked us to go back. Then, we took the Swamiji's car to front which just touched the stop-chain they had put. We requested the security people that we are too late and our Swamiji would like to reach Baroda where all His disciples are waiting. They started looking at Swamiji. We do not know what happened to them. Immediately they lowered down the stop-chain and also asked other fellow guards not to stop. There were 3 such checking at the north end but all of them allowed us to go looking at the Swamiji. We felt that the new-bridge was ultimately inaugurated by His Holiness. We all felt on that day that His Holiness have some divine power which changes people's mind towards positive thinking. Lately, the same bridge was officially inaugurated by Chief Minister after about 2 1/2 months.

13. VISUALIZATION IN ADVANCE

The second incident happened on the next day. On the 20th October 2000 at 10.00 a.m His Holiness was to visit the site of Community Hall which was under construction. In fact, we kept a small programme known as "Charna Kamala Sparsh" of His Holiness at the site. At 9.45 a.m we sent a few people in advance to site and we came to Swamiji at 10.00 a.m to go to the site from the Hall. His Holiness asked us to keep it in the evening as Swamiji wanted to have some rest. We agreed and went to inform the builder at site. To our surprise, we found nothing was ready at site and all were running here and there to give last touch-up. When we told them about the change in programme, they were happy and by evening they made all things ready.

In the evening when His Holiness visited the site, every thing was ready and Swamiji was very happy to see the building and the nearby land available for our activities. His Holiness blessed us and also the builder and his two sons who made all arrangement for us on that day. In the evening, we felt that Swamiji might have come to know in the morning itself that the arrangements were not ready and hence, His Holiness might have asked us to postpone it in the evening. Many times, we found

even though we want to do something, we can not do it but it just happens if His Holiness wishes and above is one such beautiful example.

14. MARGA DARSHAN

On the 17th January 2001, Sri G. K. Prabhu, our Trustee (Settler) visited Sri Walkeshwar Mutt and met His Holiness, giving the "Vinanti Patram" on behalf of GSB Sabha Baroda to visit Baroda for inaugurating the Community Hall named as "SADGURUDHAM" on any day convenient to His Holiness as the hall will be ready on the 9th March, Holi Poornima Day and we would like to have our "Samsar Padvo" (i.e) our new year day in this new building if possible. His Holiness happily and smilingly consented for inaugurating the hall and suggested to carry out Rakshak Havan on 16th May, Ganapati Havan and Vastu Havan on 17th and to inaugurate on 18th morning (10.05 a.m Muhurt). Swamiji advised even though New Year day is a good day, it is change of Samvatsara (i.e) old year goes and new year comes and hence, it is better to go for some other good day as it is not so good for a great event like Hall opening.

In fact, earlier we wanted to have our "Samsara Padvo" (i.e) New Year day celebrations on 26.3.2001 in the new hall but later as advised by Swamiji we decided to have the same in a rental hall as our own new hall is going to be inaugurated on 18th May 2001. Later on, we saw that all the work is not completed in the new hall. No doubt, plastering, fixing marble/tiles etc., are completed. But, polishing, electrification, plumbing etc., are pending. It was good that Swamiji suggested 18th May instead of any day between 9th and 26th April. This shows that His Holiness had anticipated the delay in advance which our builder or all of us did not visualize. It was good that we took guidance from Swamiji in time.

15. INSTALLATION OF SRI DWARAKADEESH IDOL.

During the visit of His Holiness on the 20th October 2000 for "Charana Kamala Sparsh" we requested Swamiji to suggest the idol that we should keep for our regular prayers. His Holiness immediately suggested us "Shree Dwarakadeesh" viz. Shree Krishna in the posture (Swarup) as He is in Dwaraka which is the sacred Holy place in Gujarat since our ancient heritage. Some people say we, GSBs are called as DORKE (i.e) Dwarakache (i.e) Saraswats from Dwaraka. Swamiji also recollected the "Chaturmas" His Holiness had in Dwaraka in the year 2000. Probably Swamiji saw Shree Dwarakadeesh in HIS mind at that time. Baroda being in Gujarat where Shree Krishna Paramatma had moved and stayed. Locals in Gujarat pray Shree Krishna in different postures such as Shree Dwarakadeesh in Dwaraka, Shree Ranchodji in Dakore and Shree Nathji

in Nathadwar (now in Rajasthan near Gujarat border). Swamiji informed us that in Maharastra, locals pray Vithoba Rukumayee and hence GSB Sabha in Dahisar is planning to install Vithoba Rukumayee. Same way, it is better if we keep Shree Dwarakadeesh. Hence, we arranged a 3 feet 3 inch tall idol in black marble from "Ambaji", another holy place near Gujarat Rajasthan boarder duly carrying out the carving work by Jaipur sculptors.

We, the Saraswats visited Dwaraka twice last year (year 2000) to have blessings from His Holiness during Chaturmas and also visited Shree Dwarakadeesh temple. Many of our Saraswats visited Dwaraka for the first time. We got this opportunity due to His Holiness who selected Dwaraka, for Chaturmas. Probably, our prayers with our Reverend Gurudev Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji were heard by Shree Dwarakadheesh and now his Swarup has come to Baroda to hear regular prayers from Saraswats in Baroda.

16. INSPIRATION FROM BOOKS ON HIS HOLINESS.

On Thursday, the 12th April 2001 we had our monthly meeting. I distributed a few copies of draft of this book-let to members to get their opinion for publishing. Incidentally one more book compiled and published by Shri R. N. Pai, Madras an Autobiography of His Holiness brought by Smt. Leela V. Prabhu was also under circulation. In the meantime Dr K. Baba Pai announced that Shree Dwarakadeesh idol was brought from Ambaji on Tuesday, the 10th April and kept in our new Hall premises. After seeing the 2 books on Swamiji and hearing that Shree Dwarakadeesh idol has come, our President, Dr. (Smt.) Meera S. Yellore became very happy and announced that she would donate Rs.22,500/- towards the idol. This is in addition to Rs.36,000 donated by her earlier towards the Mandir. What a great surprise?. Of course, she got inspiration from just seeing the two books on Swamiji.

Shri Dwarakadeesh Swarup is having "Shankha" & "Chakra" on left hands and "Gada" on right hand and 4th hand is open, giving blessings. We may think that there is no Kamal (Lotus). If we see all past occasions in this book, initially one Sangh Parivar person who helped us at railway way station is one Mr Kamlesh; second person who helped us in getting the Arunoday Hall from time to time is another Mr Kamlesh Patel. Now third person, the builder himself is Mr Kamlesh Thacker to whom we met first among the family. So, God has been giving us Kamal whenever we needed help.

17. A HOLY TOUCH OF LOTUS FEET - 9 TIMES.

Also, we have LOTUS FEET OF HIS HOLINESS, Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji of Shree Kashi Math Samsthan which touched our Baroda on different occasions as under and blessed all Baroda Saraswats:-

Year	Visit		Via	Camp/Hall in Baroda
	From	To		
1. 1968	-	-	-	Kunj Banglows, Palace Road.
2. 1978	-	-	-	Swaminarayana Temple, Atladara
3. 13th Mar. 1983	Ahmedabad	Mumbai	- (by road)	Syndicate Bank* Quarters, Alkapuri.
4. 15th Feb. 1989	Vasai	Haridwar	Udaipur,Jaipur (by road)	Akota Atiti Gruh, Akota.
5. July, 1994	Haridwar	Walkeshar	Delhi by train	Arunoday Hall, Alkapuri.
6. 23rd Nov. 1997	Nasik	Narayan Sarovar	Baroda by road	Arunoday Hall, Alkapuri.
7. 29 Feb 2000	Vasai	Haridwar	Ahmedabad (by road)	Amin Party Plot, Subhanpura.
8. 19 Oct 2000	Walkeshwar	Puskhar	Udaipur (by road)	Arunoday Hall, ** Alkapuri.
9. 17 May 2001	Haridwar	Mumbai	Delhi (by train)	"SADGURUDHAM" GSB GSB Sabha Baroda, Community Hall, Old Padra Road. ***

* GSB SABHA established on 15/3/1983

** "Charan Kamala Sparsh" at proposed "Sadgurudham", GSB Sabha Community Hall on 20.10.2000.

*** Specially for inauguration of the Community Hall.

With the kind blessings from His Holiness of Sree Kashi Mutt and also blessings from all our Swamijis of other three Mutts (i.e) Gokarna Partagali Mutt, Kaivalya Mutt and Chitrapur Mutt we could have our own Community Hall namely SHREE SADGURUDHAM.in Baroda which will be inaugurated by His Holiness Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji on 18th May, 2001 during His visit on 9th occasion to Baroda. We the Saraswats in Baroda are lucky to meet and have blessings from His Holiness from time to time as Baroda is in between Bombay and Delhi and Baroda has

become MAHADWARA between South India and North India on Western-Highway.

With Pranams to Reverend His Holiness Parama Poojya Gurudev Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji, we Saraswats of Baroda now Vadodara once again seek His kind blessings so that we can serve the Community more and more and reach still higher heights in the years to come.

"SHRIMAD SUDHINDRA THIRTHA SWAMIJI KI JAI".

OUR DHARMA GURU,

H.H. SHRIMAD SUDHINDRA THIRTHA SWAMIJI

is referred as Talking God (Ulloche Devu)

and Living God by Many.

We say Our Swamiji is "SAKSHAT PARABRAHMA"

We therefore always pray God

that we be blessed with many more

opportunities to serve

HIS HOLINESS

in years to come.

"SHRIMAD SUDHINDRA THIRTHA SWAMIJI KI JAI"

M. S. Kamath
GSB Sabha, Baroda

SRI SUDHINDRA UVACHA

Guidelines to Youth

Youth is the most precious period in a person's life. It should not be wasted in any way. On the contrary, it should be put to the fullest use, to make one's life happy and successful.

In youth, one has great energy and enthusiasm and good health. When old age creeps in, although a person may have intelligence, money and all other resources, declining health, lack of energy and lack of the same degree of enthusiasm as in youth come in the way of great accomplishments.

Young people should cultivate good habits which will last them for a lifetime. For instance, getting up early in the morning, cleanliness of the body, regular prayers and worship of God are good habits to be cultivated in young age. These habits lay a solid foundation for a happy and successful life.

For good health, regular physical exercise is necessary. In youth, one should cultivate such a habit of regular exercise. The body functions properly only when it goes through the routine of daily exercise. Such daily exercise helps digestion of food, keeps the limbs in good shape for an active life, and contributes to a healthy life. The benefits of regular exercise and a healthy life become all the more evident as old age slowly replaces youth.

The biggest enemy of youth is idleness. It should be shunned as poison. Idleness in youth does not mean merely lack if any purposeful work. Idleness in young age turns the mind of youth to evil and destructive activities. Every moment of life should be engaged in doing one's duty and useful work.

Apart from doing one's duty well, young age is the proper time to learn to serve others. Service of one's fellow human beings is an integral part of a happy life. There are innumerable opportunities to serve society. It is a way in which one helps the less fortunate or those who need help. Service teaches one many virtues such as humility and love. These virtues help one lead a happy life, particularly in old age.

Service to one's fellow-human beings is one of the best ways of pleasing God. Young people should learn to distinguish between good and bad, and avoid all evil in life. Bad qualities like gossip should be avoided with determination.

(Acknowledgment - A Happy Life).

